

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 VO-03 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 PPT-01 INSE-00 /070 W

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R 230758Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2552

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS ISSUES LETTER OF INSTRUCTION NO. 270

RE NATURALIZATION

BEGIN SUMMARY: MARCOS, AS ANTICIPATED, ISSUED LETTER OF INSTRUCTION ON NATURALIZATION PROCEDURES DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO EASE THE ASSIMILATION INTO PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF SOME 150,000 CHINESE ALIENS. ALTHOUGH TIMING NOT SURPRISE, EXTENT LIBERAL CONTENT WAS FEW OF STATED REQUIREMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO CREATE DIFFICULTIES AMONG CHINESE COMMUNITY WHICH WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT ITS PROVISIONS. GOP HAS LONG RECOGNIZED THAT RESOLVING LEGAL STATUS OF CHINESE ALIENS WAS A HURDLE IN THEIR PATH TOWARDS RELATIONS WITH PEKING. NEW NATURALIZATION LAW WOULD SEEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO CLEAR THE WAY TOWARDS ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH

PRC BEFORE END OF YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. AS ANTICIPATED (SEE MANILA A-55), MARCOS ISSUED A LIBERAL NATURALIZATION LETTER OF INSTRUCTION NO. 270 ON APRIL 11. THE INSTRUCTION, ALTHOUGH AIMED AT ALL ALIENS PERMANENTLY RESIDING IN THE PHILIPPINES, IS THE IMMEDIATE RESULT OF GOP CONCERN WITH THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE APPROXIMATELY 150,000 RESIDENT ALIEN CHINESE. THE INSTRUCTION ESTABLISHES A COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (CHARIMAN), THE UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SECURITY AGENCY, TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION FROM QUALIFIED ALIENS. ALL APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE MADE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 1975, AND WILL THEREAFTER BE SUBMITTED TO MARCOS.

2. QUALIFICATIONS: TO BE QUALIFIED, AN APPLICANT MUST BE: (1) NO LESS THAN 21 YEARS OLD, (2) ADMITTED LEGALLY TO PHILIPPINES AS AN IMMIGRANT OR NON-IMMIGRANT IF NON-PHILIPPINE BORN, (3) MUST HAVE HAD 10 YEARS CONTINUOUS PHILIPPINE RESIDENCE OR FIVE YEARS RESIDENCE IF FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, CONTRIBUTING INDUSTRIALIST OR INVENTOR, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHER, SPOUSE OF FILIPINO, OR BORN IN THE PHILIPPINES, (4) MUST BE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, ETC., (5) MUST DERIVE SUFFICIENT INCOME FROM KNOWN TRADE, BUSINESS, PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION, (6) MUST BE ABLE TO SPEAK AND WRITE FILIPINO, ENGLISH OR SPANISH AND ANY PRINCIPAL DIALECT, (7) MUST HAVE ENROLLED HIS MINOR CHILDREAN IN RECOGNIZED PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

4. IN CASES OF ALIENS BORN OF FILIPINO MOTHERS WHO HAVE RESIDED CONTINUOUSLY IN PHILIPPINES SINCE BIRTH, THEY SHALL BE CONSIDERED QUALIFIED WITHOUT NEED OF FURTHER PROOF.

5. DISQUALIFICATIONS: FURTHER AN APPLICANT (1) MUST NOT BE OPPOSED TO ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT, (2) MUST NOT SUPPORT USE OF VIOLENCE, (3) MUST NOT BE A POLYGAMIST, (4) MUST NOT HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF CRIME INVOLVING MORAL TURPITUDE, (5) MUST NOT SUFFER MENTAL ALIENATION OR INCURABLE, CON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGIOUS DISEASE.

6. COMMENT: THE LETTER OF INSTRUCTION AS IT FINALLY EVOLVED IS IN FACT MORE LIBERAL THAN ONE PROPOSED EARLIER BY THE JESUIT-SPONSORED ORGANIZATION "HUMANITY FOR PROGRESS" WHICH HAS LONG LOBBIED FOR ACCELERATED PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP. THE JESUIT ORGANIZATION PROPOSAL, FOR INSTANCE, REQUIRED MINIMUM RESIDENCE OF 15 YEARS, WHILE THE LETTER OF INSTRUCTION

REQUIRES A MAXIMUM OF 10 AND A POSSIBLE 5. IT HAS BEEN APPARENT FOR SOME TIME THAT MARCOS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE ALIEN CHINESE PROBLEM BEFORE HE ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH THE PRC (TIMING IS STILL TENTATIVELY EXPECTED AS LATE SUMMER).

7. THE APRIL 11 LETTER OF INSTRUCTION WILL PROBABLY BE CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE BY A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE CHINESE COMMUNITY. ONE MORE STEP TO RELATIONS WITH PEKING HAS BEEN TAKEN. LOOKING AT THE DETAILS OF THE LETTER OF INSTRUCTION, THE ONLY POSSIBLE SNAGS COULD BE THE EVIDENT GOP BIAS AGAINST THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE SCHOOL BACKGROUND AND THE PERHAPS ERRONEOUSLY DRAFTED REQUIREMENT FOR THE NATURALIZATION APPLICANT TO SPEAK A PHILIPPINE DIALECT IN ADDITION TO ENGLISH, SPANISH OR FILIPINO. SINCE THE GOP HAS NOW CLEARED THE WAY FOR EXPEDITIOUS NATURALIZATION ON FAIRLY EASY TERMS, HOWEVER, WE WOULD EXPECT THE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON THE POSITIVE FEATURES OF THE LETTER OF INSTRUCTION RATHER THAN THE NEGATIVE.
SULLIVAN

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